

LEPROSY IN FIVE YOUNG MEN—George J. Hill, II, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver; formerly Clinical Associate, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Colorado Associated University Press, 1424 15th Street, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado (80302), 1971. 204 pages, \$8.00.

This book is the result of an ambitious project initiated in 1962 by the National Institutes of Health, "to study the natural history of leprosy". Five male, Mexican nationalists from different parts of Mexico were brought to the United States for these studies. Four suffered from lepromatous leprosy and one from dimorphus leprosy. The entire admission consisted of two study periods—Study Period I, for observation and medical tests, which lasted for two to three months, and Study Period II, lasting from three to seven months, during which period therapy was given.

The contents are arranged in three main parts, namely, case summaries, a discussion of the findings, and tables. The patients were given the most thorough clinical and extensive laboratory examination possibly ever carried out anywhere. Forty-one associate investigators are listed. The case summaries contain clinical photographs, occasionally including family members, and depicting living conditions, as an interesting sidelight.

The numerous photomicrographs vary greatly in quality. To demonstrate *M. leprae* in black and white is always disappointing.

The discussion of the abnormalities covers seven major areas of research; namely, skin and neuromuscular, bacteriology and pathology, immunology, ophthalmology, hematology, gastro-intestinal and adrenal-genito-urinary. The presence of *lepra* bacilli in practically all organs examined, including prostate and jejunum is stressed. One organ not mentioned where *lepra* bacilli have been demonstrated, is the tooth.

The fifteen tables contain, in concentrated form, the results of the investigation. Covered are, among others: abnormalities of the skin, neuromuscular abnormalities, mean density of the acid fast bacilli in hundreds of specimen, the results of 10 different skin tests, the results of 19 serological tests, serum proteins, hemological abnormalities, gastro-intestinal and hepatic functions, abnormalities in renal function, urinary cortico-steroid excretion, plasma cortico-steroid values, reproductive function, and innumerable additional laboratory studies.

The author was, at the time of these studies (1962-63), Clinical Associate at the National Institutes of Health, but stresses that the book is not an official publication of the U.S. Public Health Service. Apparently, no official publication from the National Institutes of Health about these studies has appeared. One of the reasons might be that although it contains a wealth of material, no new findings were presented.

The author does not explain how the length of Study Period I, during which specific therapy was withheld, was justified, even if the patients volunteered.

PAUL FASAL, M.D.

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CECIL-LOEB TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE—Thirteenth Edition—Edited by Paul B. Beeson, M.D., Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford; and Walsh McDermott, M.D., Livingston Farrand Professor of Public Health, Cornell University Medical College, with 1969 Contributors. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105) 1971. 1974 pages, 198 illustrations: Single Volume, \$26.00, two-volume set \$30.00.

The number of pages of this encyclopedic Textbook of Medicine has grown to 1923 exclusive of the index. In addition to two editors it has five associate editors as well as a total of 170 contributors of articles. Along with its

growth numerically it has its usual good up-to-date coverage of diseases, their etiology, pathology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and therapy.

The book will probably be of most use to students and recent medical graduates. It is laid out for them as well as a one-volume encyclopedic reference can be. However, since the half life of medical information is probably less than seven years, many doctors of medicine whose entire scientific training took place before 1950 will find some sections difficult reading. The details of molecular biology can be rough going when authors assume that their readers are conversant with all the elementary principles involved. Incidentally, abbreviations should not be used in any section unless the meaning is written out in full previously in that section.

The last (or 12th edition) featured the introduction of two companion volumes on Roentgenologic Diagnosis as well as the renewal and expansion of the textbook proper. The present edition likewise contain much new material. One major section on "Respiratory Disease" is wholly new. However, the reviewer was unable to find normal values for blood gases, lung volume, mechanics of breathing or blood-gas distribution either in this section or in the tables of Normal Laboratory Values of Clinical Importance at the back of the book. The section on "Granulomatous Disease of Unproved Etiology" has been beefed up by the addition of several syndromes formerly classified under Diseases of Connective Tissue because of what one of the editors terms "the present state of ignorance" regarding their etiology. One of these, Polymyalgia Rheumatica, until recently only reluctantly classified as a disease, has been given three times the space it had in the last edition (while the putatively related Cranial Arteritis received only half the write-up it had before).

In this edition the editors demonstrate that they are aware of what is going on in the world around and beyond the individual patient. Dr. McDermott introduces the book with an essay on Medicine in Modern Society suggesting that the coincidence of massive scientific innovation and wide social change has created problems not solvable by good scientific personal medical practice alone. He offers no solutions except that we not avoid the emerging problem.

The reviewer was impressed by the reorganized and expanded section on Environmental Factors in Disease (increased from 22 to 60 pages and transferred from the back to the front of the book) and particularly by the encompassing introduction on Man in His Environment by Harold E. Lewis. This cogent article points out that a large part of the practice of medicine is devoted to treating human disorders which are expressions of inadequate or inappropriate responses to environmental influences. We need to know much more about man's environment as he faces the reality of daily life, and we need to know what effect our activities have on our environment.

Environmental knowledge has never been considered as a feature of medical education. The physician and the ecologist are both devoted to the welfare of a species but the former's primary concern has been for the individual while the latter deals with populations. Their differing philosophies may be noted in the assessment of a pesticide. The medical man is prepared to accept the results of acute or chronic toxicity tests and will be particularly concerned when individuals receive fatal doses. The ecologist is more anxious to assess the situation in terms of the biosphere.

Lewis suggests there is a feeling of helplessness against the demands of the technologic system which man has created but neither understands or effectively controls. The problem is not that of nature threatened by man, but

of nature and man equally threatened by the uncontrolled working of technology. Physical or chemical crucial decisions need to be made concerning the consumption of fossil fuels and the production of nuclear energy, the accumulation of human waste, excessive air and water pollution, the effect of noise and the human population crisis. We have mishandled our technologic capabilities. How to strike the right balance may be the greatest challenge of human wisdom.

In summary, as we have before, we recommend strongly this one volume encyclopedic textbook of medicine.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

TRAUMA TO THE LIVER—2nd Edition (Volume III in the Series **MAJOR PROBLEMS IN CLINICAL SURGERY**)—J. Englebert Dunphy, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, Consulting Editor—Gordon F. Madding, M.D. M.S. (Surgery), F.A.C.S., Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California San Francisco, Associate in Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Paul A. Kennedy, M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, Stanford University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1971. 186 pages, \$9.50.

This concise coverage of a difficult clinical problem is eminently readable. Progressing from an overview of the historical developments in management of hepatic trauma the book goes on to detailed discussions of the most vital areas in the management of liver injuries today.

Excellent drawings, corrosion cast photographs and a color plate illustrate the anatomy of the bile ducts and vascular supply to the liver. The chapter on preoperative diagnosis and preparation of the trauma patient is covered adequately and touches briefly on associated injuries and their diagnosis. Controversial areas in hepatic surgery such as extrahepatic biliary drainage, intraperitoneal antibiotics, packing of liver wounds and even wound closure techniques are discussed fairly. The authors give reasons for their preferences. Especially helpful to the surgeon who deals with this type of injury infrequently will be the good coverage of complications attendant on liver injuries and their treatment.

The chapters covering techniques of liver resection by Blaisdell and Lim and repairs of injuries involving the hepatic veins, intrahepatic vena cava and/or the portal vein by McClelland, Canizaro and Shires are extremely well done and add the depth and breadth necessary to make this monograph one of extended value to those surgeons, practicing or training, who deal with a larger volume of liver injuries in metropolitan hospital areas.

In its clear and experienced coverage of the varied aspects of liver trauma the book serves as a valuable guide. To their credit, the authors have kept it well-edited and short so that it may be used as a refresher at the time of most need—when one is faced with urgent operative therapy of the patient with hepatic injury.

RONALD K. TOMPKINS, M.D.

THE MERCK MANUAL OF DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY—12th Edition—David H. Holvey, M.D., Editor; John H. Talbott, M.D., Consulting Editor; Members of the Editorial Board: Elmer Albert, M.D., Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Edward J. Huth, M.D., Chester S. Keefer, M.D., Allen M. Kratz, Pharm.D., Dickinson W. Richards, M.D., W. Henry Sebrell, M.D., and Louis G. Welt, M.D. Merck, Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories, Division of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J. (07065), 1972. 1964 Pages, \$8.00, regular binding; \$10.40, deluxe binding, and \$6.40 for students, nurses, residents and interns.

The Twelfth Edition of the Merck Manual has come to hand. This new edition of an unexcelled resource for the medical student, the intern and resident in particular, and any practicing physician who may be in need of a quick and ready reference to diagnosis and treatment bids well to follow in the successful footsteps of its recent predecessors. It is well indexed and almost everything seems to be

covered. The use throughout of the generic names for pharmaceuticals is to be commended, but may prove to be something of a hurdle for those who are unfamiliar with the tongue twisting and brain befuddling appellations which are more the lingo of the organic chemist than of the clinician.

M.S.M. WATTS, M.D.

TRIUMPH OVER PAIN—The Story of Anaesthesia—Robert H. Curtis, M.D. David McKay Company, Inc. 750 Third Ave., New York City (10017), 1972, 134 pages, \$4.95.

"Pain is the enemy of the surgeon, and it was a great day for him and a better one for all of us when pain could be controlled."

The author follows through on this thought with a fascinating little book which highlights the story of anaesthesiology. Dr. Curtis has not only written an authoritative and enlightening book for everyone, but he has made it enjoyable and easy reading, i.e., painless.

Starting from earliest times, man sought relief from pain by using blows on the head, or the strong arms of attendants, or acupuncture, alcohol, and, finally, chemicals. The story is elaborated on the sporadic but consistent search for pain relieving remedies. The author deftly and succinctly gives us the story of the conquest of pain.

Aside from alcohol in the form of wine and the unpredictable use of morphine and hemp, there was a long lapse of several centuries while the science of chemistry was evolving before the precursors of modern anaesthetics were tried. The story of the trials and tribulations of the men involved in the development of ether, chloroform and nitrous oxide is intriguing.

This book is for all—layman, scientist, young and old. It doesn't take long to read, primarily because it is so well written that the reader wants to finish it. Here is a book that you will pass on to family and friends, and physicians will include it in their library for use by patients.

ROBERTA F. FENLON, M.D.

PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—An Annual Review—Volume XXVI—Edited by E. A. Spiegel, M.D., Dr. Med. (Hon.), Emeritus Professor and Head of the Department of Experimental Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, New York City (10003), 1971. 597 pages, \$29.75.

This volume, like the 25 preceding annual volumes, is essentially an annotated bibliography. Each of the 28 chapters deals with a special aspect in the fields of neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry. Such subspecialty areas as otoneurology, epilepsy, pediatric neurology, child psychiatry, alcoholism and peripheral nerve surgery are taken up. Each chapter is brief and is composed of a long series of simple declarative sentences each of which gives the gist of a specific article. These sentences are strung together in groups dealing with the same subject, without further discussion or editorial comment. Often, the bibliographies at the end of chapters are as long as the chapters themselves. The papers cited are primarily from the years 1969 and 1970, and the literature review is comprehensive.

In brief, this volume, like the others in the series, serves as a resource for pursuing the current literature in the field of neurology and psychiatry. It is a useful guide to aid the student, resident or specialist in finding recent pertinent articles. It is recommended for neurology and psychiatry departmental and institutional libraries, and for the specialists in these fields.

ARTHUR K. ASBURY, M.D.